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Dated: 12-16-03 Signature: [Signature]
(Michael Boyd)

Docket No.: 377882001600
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Gary VAN NEST et al.

Application No.: 09/802,685

Filed: March 9, 2001

Art Unit: 1632

For: METHODS OF PREVENTING AND
TREATING VIRAL INFECTIONS USING
IMMUNOMODULATORY
POLYNUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES

Examiner: J. Woitach

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action mailed August 20, 2003 (Paper No. 13) in connection with the above-identified application. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 1 month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to December 20, 2003. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Applicants have given careful consideration to the grounds for rejection. The following amendments and remarks are believed to place this application in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.